



“One Man’s Trash...”

Your guide to reducing, reusing and recycling

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Serving: Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio,
Ripley, Scott & Switzerland Counties



812-574-4080
www.seird.org

Summer 2022
Quarterly Newsletter

#5 plastics now accepted at these Recycle Center locations ONLY!

Polypropylene (#5) plastic is commonly used in dairy and food tubs. You can recycle empty, clean, dry #5 food containers at these Recycle Centers ONLY:



Credit: Joe Porato | iStock | Getty Images Plus

- Batesville Area Recycle Center
- Jefferson County Recycle Center
- Ohio County Recycle Center
- Ripley County Recycle Center
- Scott County Recycle Center
- Switzerland County Recycle Center

We hope to expand #5 plastics recycling to the Franklin and Jennings drop-off sites in the future.



Household hazardous waste mobile collection

This summer, we will host special mobile household hazardous waste (HHW) collections throughout the district. There will be no mobile collection in Jefferson County since the SEIRD facility in Madison accepts HHW year-round.

Here are the dates for the summer mobile collections:

Saturday, August 6

Franklin County Recycle Center – 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Ripley County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 13

Jennings County Recycle Center – 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Scott County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 20

Switzerland County Recycle Center – 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Ohio County Recycle Center – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Recycling still matters!



Recycling has had a bumpy road the past few years as local programs and recycling processors have adapted to changing overseas markets, faced transportation challenges here in the U.S., and struggled to meet the demand for paper products to make new cardboard boxes. However, what has remained true is that recycling still matters because it conserves and reuses natural resources, reduces water and air pollution, saves energy, and creates many jobs.

Did you know that over 70% of our recycled materials are sent to factories in

the United States? U.S. companies continue to make investments in recycling and seek new ways to innovate in remanufacturing recovered materials. According to the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, the U.S. recycling industry supports more than 506,000 American jobs. Plus, recycling glass saves 34% on energy compared to using new materials, and recycling aluminum saves 96%.

To learn more about local recycling opportunities, visit our website, www.seird.org.



Credit: tomprout | E+ | Getty Images

Shred it!

This summer, we are starting our residential confidential paper shredding program. Dates and more information will be released soon. In the meantime, get your old documents ready for shredding! Check online at www.seird.org for more information and updates.

Eating well while wasting and spending less

In the United States, about 40% of all food goes to waste. That waste costs a family of four about \$1,500 each year. At home, you can reduce your food waste by using the 3 Rs — Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle:

- Reduce your food waste at home by planning your meals for the week. Only buy what you need to make those meals. If possible, try to avoid ingredients that can only be used in one specific meal. Only make as much food as your family needs, and store leftovers in your freezer or refrigerator to be eaten later.
- Get the most out of your ingredients. If you have extra ingredients that you need to use up, take inventory of what you have and then look online for recipes that use those ingredients. You might discover your new favorite meal this way!
- If the portions are large at a restaurant, share with someone else in your party. Bring your own reusable containers to take leftovers home with you. Remember to eat the leftovers soon.
- Organize your refrigerator to create an “eat

first” shelf for leftovers and items that are close to their “best by” dates.

- Freeze extra food. Food that is frozen can be thawed out and used even months later.
- Make your own stock. Vegetables that are reaching the end of their freshness can be tossed into a pot with water and aging spices and then simmered into a delicious stock. This stock can then be frozen for future use.
- If you have unwanted food, share it with friends or donate it! Local food banks always appreciate donations of nonperishable foods. Perishable goods, such as produce or baked goods, can be shared among friends and quickly make you the most popular person in your neighborhood.
- Compost your food scraps. You can compost fruit and vegetable scraps, as well as bread, pasta, grains, coffee grounds, and tea bags, in your backyard compost bin or pile. Bury the food about 10" below the surface to discourage unwanted pests. You can also compost food scraps in a vermicompost (worm composting) bin indoors or an in-ground food composter outdoors.



**A FAMILY OF FOUR SPENDS \$1500
A YEAR ON FOOD THEY DON'T EAT**

COOK IT, STORE IT, SHARE IT.
JUST DON'T WASTE IT.

SAVETHEFOOD.COM



More tips to reduce waste and save money

www.savethefood.com

www.myplate.gov

www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food

Taking care of textiles



Did you know? We accept gently used clothing and household textiles at our Reuse Centers. Items at our Reuse Centers are free to pick up during shopping hours, but we do ask that you not resell them.

While many textiles, such as sheets, clothing, towels, upholstery, industrial fabric scraps, and most other woven items, can be reused or recycled, do not put them in your recycling bin! If you want to reuse or recycle textiles, you can either find dedicated textile recycling services or donate or sell textiles that are in good condition. We accept clothing and other household textiles in good condition at the SEIRD Reuse Stores, which are located in Metamora, Madison, North Vernon, Rising Sun, Osgood, Scottsburg, and East Enterprise. (See the back page for addresses and hours of operation.)

Sustainable textile practices start at the beginning. When you shop for clothes, towels, sheets, or any other fabric products, make the investment to buy quality items that will last longer and can be easily repaired. Some examples of durable textiles are tightly woven cotton, linen, polyester, and denim. Researching what you want beforehand will help you make a sustainable choice that still looks great and doesn't break the bank.

One reason to spend a little more on high-quality, durable textiles is that when they become damaged, they can be repaired rather than replaced. By spending a little

more initially, you can save money in the long run as you have a product that can last for years rather than a product which needs regular replacement. It's also much more sustainable than repeatedly buying cheaper options and throwing the old items away.

If you purchase high-quality textiles, they can also be sold or donated when you're done using them. There are several apps and websites where you can sell used clothing and textile items that are still in good condition. Some examples include Poshmark, thredUP, and Depop. Of course, eBay, Craigslist, and Facebook Marketplace are also options. If you don't want to sell, there are secondhand stores, such as Goodwill, The Salvation Army, and local thrift shops, that are happy to accept lightly used items. And, of course, remember our Reuse Stores — where you can drop off old items and shop for new ones at no charge.

Taking a little extra care to find reuse options and good quality products can go a long way toward reducing the items cluttering your closet and the waste filling your trash bins. It can also be very helpful to those in need. So, the next time you've got an old pair of jeans you want to get rid of, remember reuse!

Be an eco-friendly mover



Millions of Americans move every year. No matter where you are moving, here are some tips that you can use to make your next move a green one. Choose any of these tips that fit your needs and your budget. Just making a couple small changes can have a huge impact!

Plan Ahead

Planning ahead as far as possible can bring a lot of benefits. This will give you more time to organize your belongings and evaluate what you need to bring with you and what you can get rid of. The garage or attic is a good place to start. Carefully dispose of household hazardous waste (see box), and then separate the things you can get rid of from the things you'll keep. For items you no longer need that are in good condition, you have a few options. You could sell them online or have a garage sale. You could also donate them to a local charity or secondhand store. Getting rid of unnecessary items will help save gas and money by reducing the weight when you are moving your things. Plus, it will make unpacking quicker and leave you with less clutter in your new home.

Take Fewer Trips

All those hours spent playing Tetris are about to come in handy. When you're moving your things from your old home to your new one, be sure to pack your car or truck completely full to reduce the number of trips you take. If you have a lot to move, it may be cheaper to rent a van or truck that can carry everything in one trip.

Get Creative When Packing

Whether you know it or not, you probably have a lot of good packing containers in your house already. While you will likely have to buy some boxes, start by using suitcases, coolers, empty boxes, reusable shopping bags, and plastic totes. Pillows, towels, and blankets can be used to cushion

fragile items.

Search for Free or Low-Cost Used Boxes Locally

Buying boxes can be expensive, but you can probably get some for free if you just ask. Call local businesses or ask your neighbors if they have free boxes. You can also look online on Craigslist, Nextdoor, Facebook, or the U-Haul Exchange.

Buy Recycled Cardboard Boxes

UsedCardboardBoxes.com collects used boxes from businesses around the country and ships them to you.

Borrow Recycled Plastic Boxes and Then Send Them Back

Skip the cardboard boxes entirely and rent plastic moving boxes. Find local merchants by searching the internet for "plastic moving box rental near me."

Use Eco-Friendly Packing Materials

Newspaper is great for providing a little extra cushion. Instead of packing peanuts, shredded paper does the job just as well. Everyone loves bubble wrap, especially popping it after its job is done. If you buy bubble wrap, search for recycled-content products.

When the Move Is Done, Reuse and Recycle

Congratulations! You've successfully moved into your new home! Once you've unpacked, there's just one step left. Reuse or recycle your cardboard boxes and recycle your paper packing materials, such as newspaper or packing paper. If you used bubble wrap, visit www.plasticfilmrecycling.org to find locations where you can recycle it. For items that are still in good condition, consider offering them to your new neighbors on sites like Nextdoor, Craigslist, or Freecycle. Reuse is always better than recycling.

Paper recycling on the rise nationwide

The United States saw a rise in recycling rates for both paper and corrugated cardboard (OCC) in 2021. Paper recycling rates rose from 65.7% in 2020 to 68% in 2021. To put this into more concrete terms, U.S. paper mills accepted more than 8.6 million tons of recycled paper last year. This is the greatest amount of paper recovered since 2008. Paper mills also consumed more OCC than ever before, with 24.3 million tons in 2021. The combined weight of all recycled products accepted at paper mills also increased by 3.9%, leading to the highest-ever recovered fiber consumption in U.S. paper mills.



Credit: cybrain | iStock | Getty Images Plus

The recycling industry is not content with these achievements, though. They are striving to increase recycling rates further. The industry has committed to make an estimated \$5 billion of investments into infrastructure and new technologies through 2024 to expand its capacity to accept and handle recovered paper goods.

Use of recycled fiber has been increasing for nine consecutive years, and it's important that the industry keeps up this momentum. As Heidi Brock, American Fiber and Paper Association President and CEO, said, "Paper recycling is stronger than ever and remains an environmental success story."

So, where is all that paper going? After all, we are moving more and more toward the web for much of our media and communications. Emails have replaced letters in most instances, and websites and social media platforms have outpaced print newspapers. The answer is packaging, such as cardboard boxes and paper shipping envelopes. In fact, 2021 saw the greatest increase in our capacity to produce paper-based packaging in our country's history.

This makes sense. Companies have begun using more recyclable materials in packaging. Additionally, online shopping has been on the rise. Relying more on shipping services to fulfill our needs requires more packaging be used than simply going to the store. While the use of online retailers was already on the rise, the COVID-19 pandemic added an additional boost as people stayed inside more to protect themselves and others.

Paper collection at SEIRD

Over the past 10 years, we've seen considerable fluctuations in paper and cardboard (fiber) collections, largely mirroring national trends.

Our mixed paper collection has seen annual lows of just under 600,000 pounds to highs of just over 1 million pounds. Mixed paper consists of school paper, paper stock, old newspaper, paperback books, junk mail, and more. In our case those numbers have been down in the last three years, primarily because the bulk of our paper comes from schools. Between e-learning during the pandemic and the switch to e-books for students, school paper use is down.

Corrugated cardboard has been increasing, with a low of 358,000 pounds in 2015 to a high of 761,000 pounds in 2021. This is consistent with volumes nationwide and reflects the rise in online shopping.

"At this time, 2022 seems to be on track with last year," said Aaron Bell, SEIRD Director. "Fiber volumes appear to be on pace to match or even exceed those of 2021. Currently, we're seeing no decline in the fiber recyclables, and in fact, it appears to be increasing."



What to do with household hazardous waste

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) can be very dangerous if not disposed of properly. Some examples of HHW include cleaning supplies, car and lawn care products, some paints, propane tanks, and more.

Don't just throw your HHW in the trash. It can cause harm to trash workers, cause fires, and pollute our air and water. Your moving company probably won't move hazardous chemicals and other materials, so be sure to check with them in advance. Usable items can be sold or given away if they are not needed.

Otherwise, check the labels on hazardous products and follow label instructions to safely transport them. You will likely need to bring these items with you in your personal vehicle.

Safely dispose of HHW at the Jefferson County Recycle Center in Madison. HHW is accepted from residents of our seven-county District during our regular hours of operation year-round. You can also take advantage of the mobile HHW collections in August. Check for dates and locations on the front page.

SEIRD Recycle and Reuse Centers

Batesville Area Recycle Center

616 John Street, Batesville
 Phone: 812-801-9099
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Franklin County Recycle and Reuse Center

9076 Landfill Road, Metamora (located off of U.S. Highway 52, west of Brookville)
 Phone: 513-239-0310
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Sat., 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 9 a.m.–noon

Jefferson County Recycle Center

6556 N. Shun Pike Road, Building #534, Madison (inside Jefferson Proving Ground)
 Phone: 812-574-4080
 Hours: Mon.–Fri., 7 a.m.–3 p.m.*; 2nd and 4th Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 *The center stays open until 7 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month.

Jefferson County Reuse Center

6511 N. Meridian Road (inside Jefferson Proving Ground), Madison
 Phone: 812-801-7012
 Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–5 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Jennings County Recycle and Reuse Center

4800 State Road 3, North Vernon (behind county garage)
 Phone: 812-352-0800
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., Wed., Thurs., Fri., 8 a.m.–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Wed. and Fri., 1–6 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Ohio County Recycle and Reuse Center

1432 Barbour Way, Rising Sun
 Phone: 812-801-9037
 Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri., 1–6 p.m.;
 Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Ripley County Recycle and Reuse Center

2710 N. Hasmer Hill Road, Osgood
 Phone: 812-609-4371
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.;
 Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.;
 Fri., 8 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 (closed Wed. and Sun.)
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Scott County Recycle and Reuse Center

4689 Double or Nothing Road, Scottsburg
 Phone: 812-752-8474
 Recycle Center Hours: Mon.–Fri., 9 a.m.–3:45 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
 Reuse Center Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon

Switzerland County Recycle, Building Materials Reuse Center and Reuse Store

19 McCreary Ridge Road, East Enterprise
 Phone: 812-599-3751
 Recycle and Building Materials Reuse Center Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon
 Reuse Store Hours: Mon. and Wed., noon–6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.–noon



www.seird.org

Free event recycling bins available



Summers are made for fun in the sun with friends and family. Would you like to offer recycling at your next get-together? We have a limited number of white corrugated cardboard boxes that we are happy to loan out at no charge to individuals wanting to recycle at large family gatherings and to communities for their events. Call us today to see if we can meet the recycling needs of your event.

After the event, recyclables should be dropped off at one of our Recycle Centers along with the recycling boxes. Boxes are to be returned in good condition within three days after the event. Recycle Centers accept EMPTY aluminum cans and #1 and #2 plastic bottle- and jug-shaped containers. Recyclables contaminated with either food or trash cannot be accepted.

For more information or to request bins for your event, contact Aaron Bell at 812-574-4080.

What about plastic bags?

REPURPOSE bags around the house. Larger plastic bags can be used as trash liners for small waste baskets. Smaller bags, such as bread bags, can be used for food storage or for dog waste disposal.

RECYCLE empty, clean plastic bags, such as shopping bags, dry cleaning bags, and plastic wrappers from cases of water bottles and other drinks. Plastic bags are accepted for recycling:

- At our SEIRD Recycle Centers – Please keep separate from other recyclables!



Credit: NoDerog | E+ | Getty Images

- At take-back bins in local retail stores, such as Kroger, Walmart, and Lowe's

REPLACE plastic bags with reusable shopping bags. The easiest way to deal with plastic bags is not to have them at all!

Safely dispose of unwanted medications

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) partners with local police and sheriff's offices throughout our seven-county district to provide year-round pharmaceutical (medication) waste disposal opportunities to residents. Residents who live in the seven-county district of Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties can dispose of unwanted medical waste — including expired and unused/unwanted controlled and uncontrolled substances — 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Throwing medications into the trash or flushing them into the water supply can easily pose a threat to our health and safety. Proper disposal of pharmaceutical waste is as easy as dropping off medications at specific outlets in your community. There is no charge for this service, and no questions will be asked.

For drop-off locations near you, visit www.seird.org/pharmaceutical-waste.



Credit: ImagePixel | iStock | Getty Images Plus

The Southeastern Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) offers residents recycling, reuse, and household hazardous waste disposal options in Franklin, Jefferson, Jennings, Ohio, Ripley, Scott, and Switzerland counties. Please visit our website at www.seird.org to learn more about our services. As we are a public recycling district, we do not pay for scrap metal or any other items.

We want your suggestions, questions, and comments!

Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

Jefferson Proving Ground
 Building #534
 6556 N. Shun Pike Road
 Madison, IN 47250
 812-574-4080

seirdinfo@gmail.com • www.seird.org



Southeastern Indiana Recycling District

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Please recycle after reading.